

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A discharge bulb, comprising:

an arc tube fixedly positioned and forwardly elongating from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube; the arc tube comprising: a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube positioned in said arc tube, ~~said light emitting tube~~ having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein; and electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube ~~where, wherein~~ said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; and ~~wherein~~

a strip-shaped first light blocking portion is disposed ~~on-at~~ a first portion of said ~~arc~~ light emitting tube that corresponds to at least a rear one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube,

wherein said first light blocking portion extending-extends, in a circumferential direction, over at least a predetermined range from an upper side ~~in a circumferential direction~~ to both lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

2. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb according to claim 1, further comprising: a second light blocking portion positioned on disposed at a second portion of said light emitting tube that corresponds to a front one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube,

wherein and said second light blocking portion extends, in the circumferential direction, over at least a predetermined range, from a lower side in the circumferential direction to both of said lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

3. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 2, wherein said second light blocking portion is formed in has a predetermined width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, from the second position at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said front sealed end portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes.

4. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said first light blocking portion is formed in has a predetermined width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, from the first position at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said rear sealed end portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes.

5. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said first light blocking portion ~~on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with ~~an~~ a lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

6. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 4 2, wherein said second light blocking portion ~~on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with ~~a uppermost~~ an uppermost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

7. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said first light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of ~~at least one of~~ said light emitting tube ~~arc tube and said glass shroud~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A discharge bulb, comprising:
an arc tube ~~is~~ is fixedly positioned ~~so as to elongate and~~ and forwardly elongating from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube; the arc tube comprising: a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube ~~positioned in said arc tube and~~ having sealed end portions to form

an enclosed space therein; and electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube,
wherein said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; and

an ultraviolet-ray blocking glass shroud surrounding said light emitting tube and
positioned around said arc tube; and

~~wherein, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud,~~

a strip-shaped first light blocking portion disposed at a first portion of said light emitting
tube that corresponds is positioned corresponding to at least a rear one of the end-sealed portion
end portions among front and rear end sealed portions of said light emitting tube,

wherein said first light blocking portion extending extends, in a circumferential direction,
over at least a range from an upper side in a circumferential direction to both lateral sides of said
light emitting tube.

9. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb according to claim 3 8, further comprising: a
second light blocking portion positioned corresponding to said disposed at a second portion of
said light emitting tube that corresponds to a front one of said end-sealed end portions portion of
said light emitting tube, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud,

wherein said second light blocking portion extends, in the circumferential direction, over
at least a predetermined range from a lower side in the circumferential direction to both of said
lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

10. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 9, wherein said second light blocking portion ~~is formed in~~ has a predetermined width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, ~~from the second position at least~~ corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said ~~front sealed end~~ portion of said light emitting tube, ~~up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of~~ corresponding one of said electrodes.

11. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said first light blocking portion ~~is formed in~~ has a predetermined width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, ~~from the first position at least~~ corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said ~~rear sealed end~~ portion of said light emitting tube, ~~up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of~~ corresponding one of said electrodes.

12. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said first light blocking portion ~~on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with ~~an~~ a lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

13. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 8 9, wherein said second light blocking portion ~~on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions

that horizontally coincide in level with a an uppermost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

14. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said first light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of ~~at least one of~~ said ~~are~~ light emitting tube and said glass shroud.

15. (Currently Amended) A discharge bulb, comprising:

an arc tube fixedly positioned and forwardly elongating from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube; the arc tube comprising: a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube ~~positioned in said arc tube and~~ having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein; and electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube, ~~wherein~~ wherein said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; and means for positioning a hot zone of a luminous distribution at a cutoff line of said luminous distribution, and substantially reducing a glare light output.

16. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 15, wherein:

said means for positioning and substantially reducing ~~comprising:~~ comprises a strip-shaped first light blocking portion disposed ~~on~~ at a first portion of said ~~are~~ light emitting tube that corresponds to at least a rear one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube; and

~~wherein said first~~ light blocking portion extends, in a circumferential direction, over at least a predetermined range from an upper side ~~in a circumferential direction~~ to both lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

17. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb according to claim 16, wherein:
said means for positioning and substantially reducing further ~~comprising~~: comprises a second light blocking portion positioned disposed on a second portion of said light emitting tube ~~that corresponds corresponding to said a front one of the end sealed portion end portions of said light emitting tube~~; and

~~in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud, wherein said second~~ light blocking portion extends, in a circumferential direction, over at least a predetermined range from a lower side ~~in the circumferential direction~~ to both of said lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

18. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 16 17, wherein:
said second light blocking portion is ~~formed in~~ has a predetermined width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, from the second position at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said front sealed end portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes; and wherein
said first light blocking portion is ~~formed in~~ has a predetermined width, in the axial direction, from the first position at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said

~~rear sealed end portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 16, wherein;

~~said first light blocking portion on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with an a lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube;~~

~~said second light blocking portion on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with a an uppermost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube;~~ and

~~said first light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of at least one of said arc light emitting tube and said glass shroud.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 16, further comprising: an ultraviolet-ray blocking glass shroud surrounding said light emitting tube and positioned around ~~said arc tube, wherein, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud.~~